

UFCW Members Nationwide Celebrate Spirit of Service on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

UFCW members celebrated Martin Luther King, Jr. Day by lending a helping hand. UFCW locals nationwide organized service projects in their communities as part of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service:



UFCW Local 5 members who traveled to New Orleans to participate in a two-day community service project.

- Over 500 members of Locals 5, 400, 655, 888, and 1000 traveled to New Orleans to participate in a two-day service project. Members cleaned and restored parks and repaired three homes.
- Local 1099 members participated in a Martin Luther King, Jr. breakfast and commemorative march.
- Region 1 staff attended a multicultural, interfaith prayer service and choir concert on behalf of Long Island's working poor.
- Local 5 members and staff in California handed out gold UFCW bags along with Employee Free Choice & Wake-up Wal-Mart materials to freedom train riders. The riders traveled to San Francisco, CA train station, from which riders marched to the San Francisco Civic Center and attended a program on "A

Service to Action."

- Region 1 staff and Local 888 members and staff attended an NAACP event in Harlem in honor of Dr. King's birthday.
- Local 770 members attended the MLK Breakfast, coordinated with the L.A. AFL-CIO, as well as the Kingdom Day parade.
- Region 1 staff and Local 888 members and staff attended a "Celebration of the Man and the Holiday" sponsored by Coney Island C.L.E.A.R.

UFCW members across the country were grateful for the chance to join in the spirit of service embodied by the life and work of Dr. King, and to answer the call to action issued by President Obama.

New Info on Employee Free Choice

The following new information may help you and your members make the case for Employee Free Choice:



American Rights at Work, along with the Economic Policy Institute, the Center for Economic and Policy Research, and Professor Harley Shaiken, has produced a paper making the economic case for the Employee Free Choice Act. [Download it here \(PDF\).](#)



[Paul Krugman](#) has an excellent piece in *Rolling Stone*, in which he explains how passing Employee Free Choice will help rebuild our middle class.



Richard Berman opposes every consumer safety, worker rights, and health issue you can imagine—and is well-paid for his opposition. He's often quoted in the media as an 'expert,' when he's really just a shill for business and industry. A new website from the Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, www.bermanexposed.org, reveals exactly who Berman is and who he's working for.

President Hansen and other U.S. Labor Leaders to Team Up With UNI, Global Union Leaders on Employee Free Choice

Recently, UFCW International President and UNI President Joe Hansen helped to lead a meeting in Washington, D.C., between union leaders from 45 different countries and representatives of U.S. union organizations. Participants discussed the union movement in the United States and the need to work together to pass the Employee Free Choice Act.

Philip Jennings, General Secretary of UNI, affirmed UNI's support for the Employee Free Choice Act, and said that union members around the world stand at the ready to help America's workers realize the freedom to form unions through its passage.

Majority sign-up is already the routine method for forming unions in countries like Australia, Japan, Norway, Germany, the United Kingdom, Israel and nearly every other industrialized democracy in the world. Global union leaders will next meet in Brussels, Belgium, in February, in order to determine how best to show visible support of the Employee Free Choice Act, and to make sure that American workers are able to enjoy the same freedom to join a union that workers in other democracies have.

UFCW Members March in Historic Workers' Contingent in Inauguration Day Parade

UFCW members joined a group of some 265 workers on Inauguration Day to march in the Inauguration Parade. The workers' group was one of the largest in the parade, and marked the first time in recent memory that workers have been participants in the Inauguration Day festivities.

UFCW members rode a union-made, Teamster-driven float and marched alongside workers from Change to Win, the AFL-CIO, and the National Education Association. The theme of the float was "Honoring America's Workers," and it featured the "faces of labor"—a tribute to working men and women across the country.



UFCW members march in the Inauguration Day Parade

Marching with a banner, "America's Workers: United for Change," UFCW members and other participants also carried flags that represented the issues most important to working families: an "Economy That Works for All," "Great Public Schools," "Good Jobs Green Jobs" and "Health Care for All."

UFCW members were happy to be able to celebrate the fruits of their efforts and the historic election of President Obama—and to make it clear to all that workers are ready for change in America.

Food Workers at Unilever's Lipton Factory in Pakistan Need UFCW Support

Supported by the IUF-affiliated National Federation of Food, Beverage and Tobacco Workers of Pakistan, over 700 contract workers at Unilever's last directly owned and operated Lipton Tea factory in Pakistan are fighting for permanent job status. Lipton workers are fighting for the right of workers everywhere to secure employment and a living wage, along with health benefits and the ability to retire with dignity—as well as the right to join a union and bargain with their employer to secure these benefits.

The workers will be launching a series of national and local actions, and urgently need your support. Go to: www.iuf.org/den5622 to learn more about how to help.